

NOVEMBER 30, 2007

MICHAEL W. DOBBINS
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

07 C 6730

EARL R. HOBBS, individually and on behalf)	
of all others similarly situated,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No.
)	
v.)	
)	
TCF BANK,)	JURY DEMANDED
)	
Defendant.)	

**JUDGE BUCKLO
MAGISTRATE JUDGE BROWN**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Earl R. Hobbs ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, The Consumer Advocacy Center, P.C., states as follows for her Class Action Complaint against TCF Bank ("Defendant").

The Parties

1. Plaintiff is an Illinois citizen and resides in this district.
2. Defendant is a national bank with its principal place of business in Wayzata, Minnesota. Defendant is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court as it conducts substantial business in this district and the acts and transactions that give rise to this litigation occurred in this district.

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. This Court has federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, because this action is brought pursuant to the Electronic Funds Transfer Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1693 *et seq.*, Regulation E, 12 C.F.R. § 205.1 *et seq.*, the Expedited Funds Availability Act, 12 U.S.C. § 4001 *et seq.*, and Regulation CC, 12 C.F.R. § 229.1 *et seq.*

4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because the transactions at issue occurred in this district, Plaintiff resides in this district, and Defendant conducts business in this district.

Statutory/Regulatory Authority

EFTA

5. The Electronic Funds Transfer Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1693 *et seq.* (“EFTA”), and its implementing Regulation E, 12 C.F.R. § 205.1 *et seq.*, require an automated teller machine (“ATM”) operator to provide notice to consumers that the operator will impose a fee on consumers for conducting a transaction at an ATM and the amount of such a fee.

6. Specifically, 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(c) require that an ATM operator disclose (a) on the ATM, that a fee will be imposed and (b) on the ATM screen, that a fee will be imposed and the amount of such a fee.

7. The EFTA, 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(C), and Regulation E, 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(e), prohibit the imposition of a fee for using an ATM if the foregoing notice requirements are not met.

EFAA

8. The Expedited Funds Availability Act, 12 U.S.C. § 4001 *et seq.* (“EFAA”), and its implementing Regulation CC, 12 C.F.R. § 229.1 *et seq.*, require depository institutions to post a notice at ATMs accepting deposits that deposited funds may not be available for immediate withdrawal.

9. Specifically, 12 U.S.C. § 4004(d)(2) requires that the owner or operator of an ATM at which any funds are received for deposit shall post or provide notice that funds deposited in such machine may not be immediately available for withdrawal.

10. Additionally, 12 C.F.R. § 229.18(c)(1) requires that “[a] depository bank shall post or provide a notice at each ATM location that funds deposited in the ATM may not be available for immediate withdrawal.”

Facts Related To Earl R. Hobbs

11. On August 22, 2007, Plaintiff used Defendant’s automated teller machine (“ATM”) number 48072 (“ATM 48072”), located at 2940 North Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

12. On August 22, 2007, Plaintiff was charged a \$2.00 fee to withdraw money from ATM 48072.

13. On August 22, 2007, at the time Plaintiff used ATM 48072, there was no notice posted on or near ATM 48072 that disclosed that users would be charged any fee for using ATM 48072.

14. On August 22, 2007, at the time Plaintiff used it, ATM 48072 did not have a notice advising that funds deposited may not be available for immediate withdrawal.

COUNT I
VIOLATION OF EFTA AND REGULATION E

15. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference paragraphs 1-14.

16. Plaintiff brings this Count on behalf of himself and Class A. Class A consists of all persons who: 1) were charged a “transaction fee” for the use of the ATM machine, number 48072, located at 2940 North Ashland Avenue in Chicago, Illinois; 2) when no “transaction fee” amount was posted on the outside of that ATM machine.

17. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable because, on information and belief, the putative class consists of hundreds of persons and is so numerous that joinder of all putative class members, whether otherwise required or permitted, is

impracticable. The actual number of putative class members is in the exclusive control of Defendant.

18. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable because questions of law and fact common to Class A predominate over any questions affecting only individual putative class members, including:

- (a) Whether, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(A) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16, Defendant was an ATM operator at all relevant times during the class period that imposed a fee on consumers for providing host transfer services to those consumers; and
- (b) Whether, at all relevant times during the class period, Defendant failed to comply with the notice requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(c).

19. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable because Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the putative class members, including:

- (a) Plaintiff and all putative class members used an ATM operated by Defendant;
- (b) Defendant failed to provide notices compliant with 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(c) to Plaintiff and all putative class members; and
- (c) Defendant illegally imposed a fee on Plaintiff and all putative class members for their respective use of ATM 48072.

20. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable because Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of Class A and Plaintiff has hired counsel able and experienced in class action litigation.

21. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because questions of law or fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual putative class members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the full and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

22. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because this Court and the parties would enjoy economies in litigating common issues on a class-wide basis instead of a repetitive individual basis.

23. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because the size of each putative class member's actual damages is too small to make individual litigation an economically viable option.

24. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because no unusual difficulties will likely occur in the management of Class A as all questions of law or fact to be litigated at the liability stage are common to the putative class and all compensatory relief is concomitant with a liability finding and can be calculated by automated and objective means.

25. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(D)(i) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(a), Defendant was an ATM operator at all times relevant to this action.

26. Defendant was the ATM operator of ATM 48072 at all times relevant to this action.

27. Defendant failed to comply with the notice requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(c) when providing ATM services to Plaintiff and all putative class members.

28. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(C) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(e), Defendant therefore illegally imposed a fee on Plaintiff and all putative class members for their respective use of ATM 48072.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the members of Class A, requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against TCF Bank and award the following:

A. Actual and statutory damages as set forth in the EFTA and Regulation E;

- B. Attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and
- C. Such other relief as this Court deems proper.

COUNT II
VIOLATION OF EFAA AND REGULATION CC

29. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference paragraphs 1-14.

30. Plaintiff brings this Count on behalf of himself and Class B. Class B consists of all persons who: (a) used automated teller machine number 48072, located at TCF Bank, 2940 North Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657; and (b) were not notified by any signage on automated teller machine number 48072 that any funds deposited into automated teller machine number 48072 may not be available for immediate withdrawal.

31. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable because, on information and belief, the putative class consists of hundreds of persons and is so numerous that joinder of all putative class members, whether otherwise required or permitted, is impracticable. The actual number of putative class members is in the exclusive control of Defendant.

32. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable because questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual putative class members, including:

- (a) Whether, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(A) and 12 C.F.R. § 205.16, Defendant was an ATM operator at all relevant times during the class period that imposed a fee on consumers for providing host transfer services to those consumers;
- (b) Whether, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 4001(12) and 12 C.F.R. § 229.2(o), Defendant was a depository bank at all relevant times during the class period that accepted deposits at its ATM; and

- (c) Whether, at all relevant times during the class period, Defendant failed to comply with the notice requirements of 12 U.S.C. § 4004(d)(2) and 12 C.F.R. § 229.18(c)(1).

33. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable because Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the putative class members, including:

- (a) Plaintiff and all putative class members used an ATM operated by Defendant; and
- (b) Defendant failed to provide notices compliant with 12 U.S.C. § 4004(d)(2) and 12 C.F.R. § 229.18(c)(1).

34. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable, because Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of Class B and Plaintiff has hired counsel able and experienced in class action litigation.

35. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because questions of law or fact common to Class B predominate over any questions affecting only individual putative class members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the full and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

36. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because this Court and the parties would enjoy economies in litigating common issues on a class-wide basis instead of a repetitive individual basis.

37. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because the size of each putative class member's actual damages is too small to make individual litigation an economically viable option.

38. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), class certification is appropriate because no unusual difficulties will likely occur in the management of Class B as all questions of law or fact

to be litigated at the liability stage are common to the putative class and all compensatory relief is concomitant with a liability finding and can be calculated by automated and objective means.

39. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 4001(12), Defendant was a depository institution at all times relevant to this action.

40. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 4001(16) and 12 C.F.R. § 229.2(aa), ATM 48072 was a proprietary ATM of Defendant at all times relevant to this action.

41. Pursuant to 12 C.F.R. § 229.2(e), Defendant was a bank at all times relevant to this action.

42. Pursuant to 12 C.F.R. § 229.2(o), Defendant was a depository bank at all times relevant to this action.

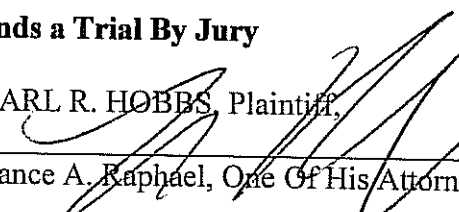
43. ATM 48072 received funds for deposit all times relevant to this action.

44. Defendant failed to comply with the notice requirements of 12 U.S.C. § 4004(d)(2) and 12 C.F.R. § 229.18(c)(1) when providing ATM services to Plaintiff and all putative class members.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the members of Class B, requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against TCF Bank and award the following:

- A. Statutory damages as set forth in the EFAA and Regulation CC;
- B. Attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and
- C. Such other relief as this Court deems proper.

Plaintiff Demands a Trial By Jury

By:  EARL R. HOBBS, Plaintiff,
Lance A. Raphael, One Of His Attorneys

Dated: November 28, 2007

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